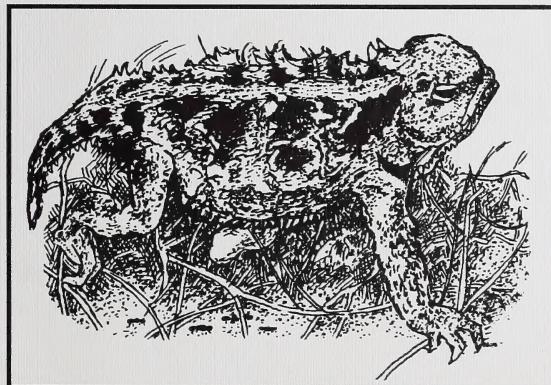
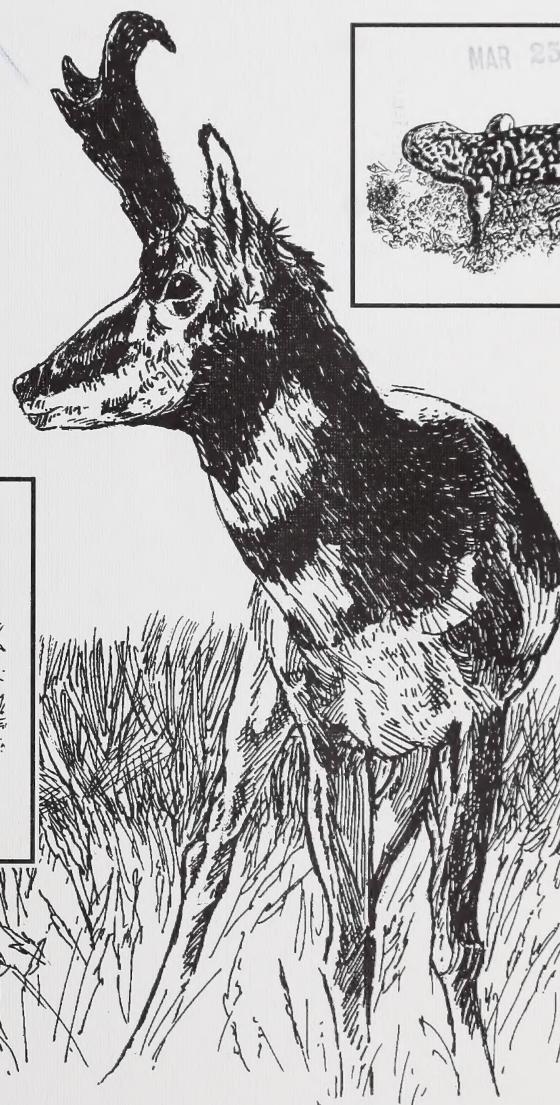


# The Status of Alberta Wildlife



**Alberta**  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
Natural Resources

**Wildlife Management Division Report**



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# The Status of Alberta Wildlife

Alberta's natural environment is unique and fragile.

It is the responsibility of all Albertans to protect and conserve Alberta's natural environment. This document is intended to assist Albertans in understanding the status of Alberta's wildlife and to encourage Albertans to take action to protect and conserve Alberta's natural environment.

Alberta's natural environment is threatened by increasing human activity. The Alberta government has taken steps to protect and conserve Alberta's natural environment. Alberta's natural environment is threatened by increasing human activity. The Alberta government has taken steps to protect and conserve Alberta's natural environment.

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We thank the many individuals and organizations

**Alberta Environmental Protection  
Natural Resources Service  
Wildlife Management Division**

**December 1996**

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## Preface

**A**lberta has long enjoyed the legacy of abundant fish and wildlife. These same animals, in the present, are important environmental indicators; their populations reflect the health and diversity of the environment.

Environmental Protection has designated as one of its core businesses the conservation, in perpetuity, of Alberta's fish and wildlife resources. The status of wildlife is one of the performance measures against which the Department determines the effectiveness of its policies and service delivery.

Central to achieving this goal is the accurate determination of the status of all wildlife species in the province, in order to develop and implement sound wildlife management and habitat conservation programs. This document, the *Status of Alberta Wildlife*, is published by the Wildlife Management Division of the Natural Resources Service every five years and assists the provincial government to determine the need for, and direction of, further action.

This document presents a system for evaluating the status of all wildlife species in Alberta. It is the first step in a continuing process of evaluating and reporting on the biological status of Alberta wildlife. The preparation and distribution of this report is designed to achieve three objectives:

- 1) To provide information on, and raise awareness of, the current status of wildlife species in Alberta.
- 2) To stimulate broad public input to assist in refining the evaluation process and more clearly defining the status of individual species (see '1.4 Future Activities,' page 8).
- 3) To provide a reference for provincial government agencies in the development of wildlife conservation and management programs.

The 1996 edition of the *Status of Alberta Wildlife* represents a substantial improvement in the knowledge base of wildlife species in Alberta. A total of 483 bird, mammal, reptile, and amphibian species have been the subject of research for this edition. Fully 104 different species, either not listed or designated "status unknown" in 1991, have been assigned a status in the colour lists in this report. An additional 65 species demonstrate a status improvement which, in part, reflects our improved knowledge and refinements to the evaluation process.

We will continue to evaluate the status of wildlife on an ongoing basis. Methods of status evaluation will be refined, improved, and broadened as more data is incorporated. The evaluation process used in this report is unique to Alberta, but is patterned after similar systems being used in other North American jurisdictions.

The evaluation process and status designations are open to change, and both will benefit from broad public review and input. To facilitate public input, a blank species evaluation form is provided in **Appendix 2**. Anyone wishing to participate in the classification of one or more species is invited to complete a form for each species, provide background information, and/or comments on the evaluation process, and mail this information to:

**Department of Environmental Protection  
Natural Resources Service  
Wildlife Management Division  
4th Floor, 9920 - 108 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2G6 Phone: 427-6750**

Thank you for your interest in Alberta's wildlife.

## Acknowledgements

Draft status scores for each species were compiled by staff of the Wildlife Management Division in Edmonton. The status evaluation system and draft scores were refined through regional consultation with a large number of professional biologists from government and industry, along with other wildlife experts from the natural history community in Alberta. The final status score for each species was achieved through a synthesis of data and opinions provided by these individuals. Final scores and allocation to colour lists, however, remains the sole responsibility of the Wildlife Management Division, Natural Resources Service. The division is grateful to the following individuals who participated in the process:

### *Individuals*

John Acorn	Dan Farr	Richard Klauke	Jim Potter
Jim Allen	Lorne Fitch	Floyd Kunnas	Larry Powell
Mairi Babey	John Follinsbee	Ken Lungle	Dave Prescott
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			Cleve Wershler

### *Organizations*

The Wildlife Management Division also is grateful to the following organizations for providing input from their members, published and unpublished data and observations, and other reference material...

Environment Canada	Edmonton Bird Club
Ducks Unlimited – Canada	Edmonton Natural History Club
North American Waterfowl Management Plan	Strathcona Natural History Club
University of Alberta	Fort Saskatchewan Naturalists Association
University of Calgary	Ellis Bird Farm
University of Lethbridge	Peace Parkland Naturalists
Provincial Museum of Alberta	Grassland Naturalists
Alberta Fish and Game Association	Red Deer River Naturalists
Calgary Field Naturalists	Inglewood Bird Sanctuary

### *Wildlife Management Division*

While many individuals within the Wildlife Management Division contributed to this document, the overall process of data compilation and analysis was managed by a team from the Status and Surveys Branch including: Gordon Court, Steve Brechtel, Bill Hall, Bruce Treichel and Delinda Ryerson.

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# INTRODUCTION

This document evaluates the well being, or soundness, of wildlife populations found in Alberta. It does so primarily by reviewing the current state of knowledge of key criteria such as abundance, breeding distribution, security of habitats, status in other jurisdictions, and current population trends for each wildlife species in the province. This review allows the determination of *status* for all amphibians (10), reptiles (8), mammals (91), and birds (373) that occur in Alberta. A clear understanding of status for individual species is a key element in wildlife conservation. It permits sound planning and decision-making for conservation and protection programs, and it provides a critical step in setting wildlife management priorities. Moreover, this procedure focuses attention on taxa that have life-history or demographic characteristics which may pre-dispose them to population declines. Status determination acts as an important *first step* in identifying candidate species for designation as Endangered or Threatened animals under Alberta's Wildlife Act.

## 1.1 Background

Throughout the history of wildlife management, information on population status and trends has been used to manage game species. More recently, the identification and restoration of endangered/threatened species has been based largely on understanding and attempting to improve population status. As interest in wildlife has grown and broadened, and our understanding of the value and need to maintain undisrupted and diverse ecosystems has increased, the need to understand the biological status of *all* wildlife has become essential. Determining status is the first step in the process of effective management. It provides the base from which management and other conservation initiatives can be planned and assessed.

The Wildlife Management Division began a status evaluation process in 1985 with the *Status of the Fish and Wildlife Resources in Alberta*, and *A Policy for the Management of Threatened Wildlife in Alberta*. These documents provided a summary of the status of selected high priority species, and initiated the use of an objective evaluation system with which to summarize and compare status information. However, they did not provide a complete review of the status of all Alberta wildlife species.

In 1991 the Wildlife Management Division produced *The Status of Alberta Wildlife* document which evaluated the biological status of all non-fish vertebrate wildlife species that occur in Alberta. This document implemented a system that was used to: 1) evaluate the current and projected status of populations and their habitats; 2) sort species into lists based on similar status; 3) provide a brief summary of current status and background information for species at risk and for those species that may require special management.

Even though these status evaluations are restricted to vertebrates, it remains a significant challenge to work with a single categorization system that adequately evaluates the status of such a diverse range of taxa, each with vastly different population sizes, reproductive potentials, and life-history strategies. The present categorization procedure must deal with life forms ranging from Leopard Frogs to Grizzly Bears. Given this challenge, the Wildlife Management Division has "fine tuned" the status scores for each species by reviewing them with wildlife experts throughout the province. In 1995, staff of the Wildlife Management Division implemented a formalized and extensive regional consultation process. Status designations were reviewed with over 100

professional biologists, university researchers, industry biologists, and naturalists. The lists presented in this document represent a synthesis of their input and the present scoring system.

## 1.2 Objective and Purpose

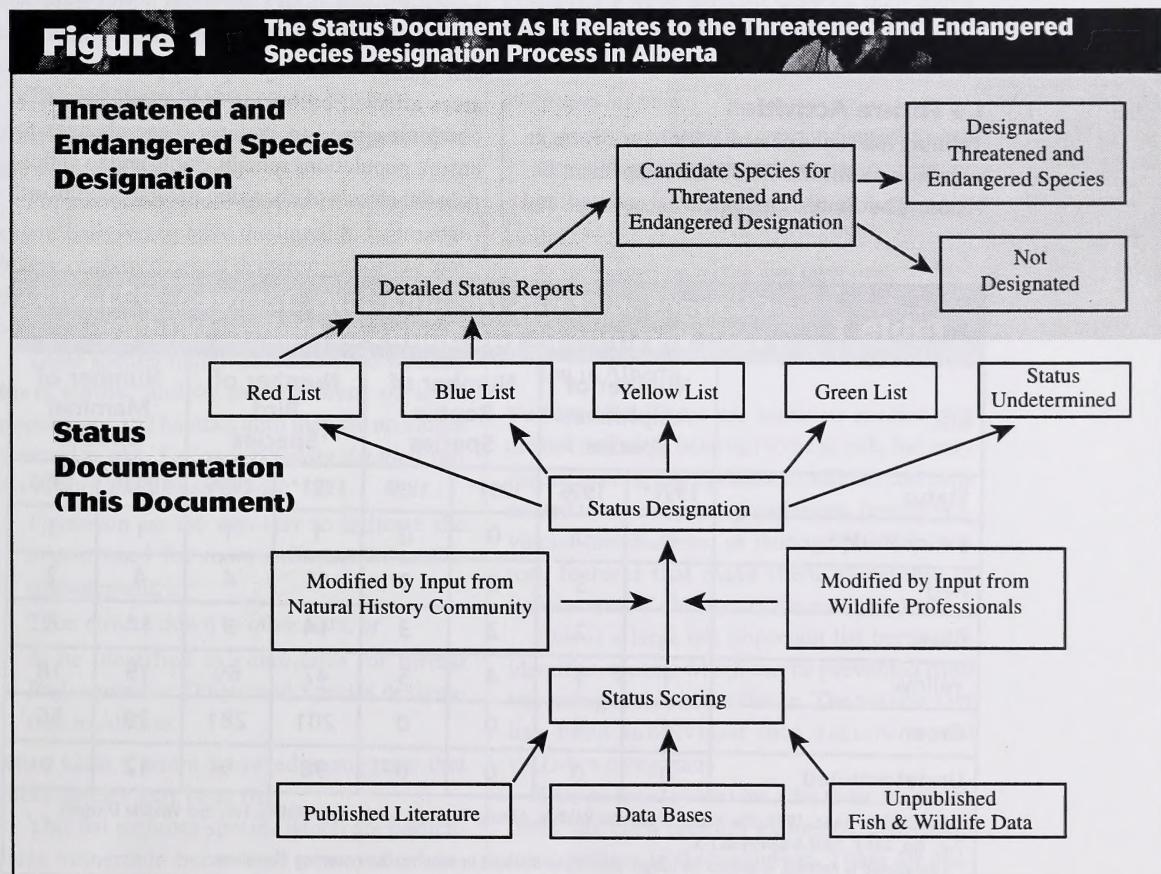
This document is intended to accomplish three primary objectives:

- 1) To provide a baseline reference to assist in establishing priorities and directions for management and conservation programs dealing with wildlife species and their habitats.
- 2) To provide information to the public and increase awareness of what is known regarding the current status of Alberta's wildlife.
- 3) To stimulate and focus professional and public input, in order to improve the evaluation process and the accuracy of individual species status classifications.

## 1.3 The Status Document and Threatened/Endangered Species Designation

It is very important to stress that the species lists within *The Status of Alberta Wildlife* document are intended primarily as a guide through which to prioritize management and/or information gathering activities. The status designation process tends to highlight rare species, however, so the status document also provides "first cut" selections of species that may be considered for more detailed evaluations and possible future designation as Endangered or Threatened. It is imprudent and incorrect, however, to assume that all taxa which appear on the RED and BLUE status lists can be readily assigned to Endangered, Threatened, and Vulnerable classifications used by conservation organizations (e.g. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada — COSEWIC),

**Figure 1** The Status Document As It Relates to the Threatened and Endangered Species Designation Process in Alberta



or that they will be assigned automatically to Endangered or Threatened classifications under current or future endangered species legislation in Alberta. The role of the Status Document in the process for designating Endangered and Threatened species is placed in perspective in **Figure 1**.

In some cases, species appear on RED OR BLUE lists within the Status Document because of a profound lack of information, combined with informed concern over their well being in the province. An ideal example of this is the Long-toed Salamander. In 1991 this species was placed on the RED LIST because of a lack of information and expressed concern over its populations. Through new research initiatives and its enhanced profile, intensive research was conducted on the species throughout the early 1990s. We now have enough information to suggest that the species be moved to the YELLOW LIST. At no time during this process was the Long-toed Salamander considered to be an Endangered Species.

#### 1.4 Future Activities

Refining the status determination process is an ongoing task for the Wildlife Management Division. The Status Document is updated and

revised every five years. As our knowledge base improves and vertebrate populations change, status lists will also change. A summary of the changes in status designations between 1991 and 1996 is provided in **Table 1**. Please note, however, that not all changes in list totals between 1991 and 1996 reflect changes in populations or improved knowledge. The 1996 document implemented strict rules on the ranking/listing of migrants and peripherals; these rules are responsible in part for the differing totals below.

Updating and improving the status document will require that existing information from both knowledgeable individuals and published sources is utilized fully each time status determinations are re-assessed. This process will continue to highlight information needs for species whose status currently cannot be determined. Filling the data gaps will require a concerted effort by government agencies, non-government groups, and committed individuals. It should be recognized that wildlife populations can change relatively rapidly, particularly in areas affected by human land-use. There is a continuing need to monitor these changes to ensure populations remain viable and to anticipate the effects of changing habitat conditions.

**Table 1. Changes in Status Designations Between 1991 and 1996 Versions of The Status of Alberta Wildlife**

List	Number of Amphibian Species		Number of Reptile Species		Number of Bird Species		Number of Mammal Species	
Status	1991*	1996	1991*	1996	1991*	1996	1991*	1996
Extripated**	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Red	3	3	2	0	11	4	4	2
Blue	2	2	2	3	14	9	14	6
Yellow	1	1	4	5	47	69	19	18
Green	4	4	0	0	201	281	39	55
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	96	9	12	9

\* As listed in: Anon. 1991. The Status of Alberta Wildlife. Alberta Forestry, Lands, and Wildlife. Fish and Wildlife Division. Pub. No. I/413. ISBN 0-86499-821-X.

\*\* Extripated is defined: a species no longer existing in the wild in Alberta, but occurring elsewhere.

**T**he biological status of each species is as unique as its life history and physical form. In order to focus management and conservation efforts, however, it is necessary to create a structure to group species of similar status into broad categories. In the future, as our knowledge of species (especially non-game animals, plants, and invertebrates) expands, several complementary evaluation systems may be required for different groups of species.

## 2.1 Status Categories

The status evaluation system outlined in this document separates Alberta wildlife species into five categories or lists. In a broad sense, the categories can be defined at three levels: 'At Risk' (RED and BLUE LIST), 'Not At Risk' (YELLOW and GREEN), and 'Unknown' (STATUS UNDETERMINED LIST). The word *risk* is used to indicate *the risk of extirpation* within the province of Alberta.

The definitions of the various lists are:

**Red List:** Current knowledge suggests that these species *are* at risk.

Populations of these species have declined, or are believed to have declined, to nonviable levels, or show a rate of decrease indicating that they are at immediate risk of declining to nonviable levels in Alberta.

These species require more detailed work on their status, and/or management of their populations and habitats until they are no longer deemed at risk. *Following a more detailed status report, these species will:*

- 1) remain on the RED LIST to indicate the *urgent* need for more information and/or management; *or*
- 2) be moved down to other lists; *or*
- 3) be identified as *candidates* for formal Endangered or Threatened Species designation in Alberta.

**Blue List:** Current knowledge suggests that these species *may be* at risk.

This list includes species which are particularly vulnerable because of non-cyclical de-

clines in population or habitat, or reductions in provincial distribution.

Species that are generally suspected of being at risk, but for which information is too limited to clearly define their status, have also been placed in this category to indicate the immediate need for more information. All BLUE LIST species require more detailed work on their status and/or management of their populations or habitats. *Following a more detailed status report, each species will:*

- 1) remain on the BLUE LIST to indicate the need for more information and/or management; *or*
- 2) be moved down to YELLOW or GREEN LISTS; *or*
- 3) be moved up to the RED LIST; *or*
- 4) be identified as *candidates* for formal Endangered or Threatened Species designation in Alberta.

**Yellow List:** These are sensitive species that are not currently believed to be at risk, but may require special management to address concerns related to naturally low populations, limited provincial distributions, or demographic/life history features that make them vulnerable to *human-related* changes to the environment.

This is a large but important list because it identifies species which can be prevented from becoming at risk in the future. The YELLOW LIST has been subdivided into YELLOW A and YELLOW B categories.

Species listed as YELLOW A are those for which there has been concern expressed over long-term declines in their numbers. These are spe-

cies that merit extra attention, as they may be in trouble.

The **YELLOW B** list includes species that are:

- 1) naturally rare but are not in decline;
- 2) naturally rare and have clumped breeding distributions; *or*
- 3) associated with habitats (e.g. old-growth forests) or habitat elements (e.g. wildlife trees) that are, or may be, deteriorating.

These species may warrant management attention in order to ensure that they do not end up in trouble.

**Green List:** These species are not considered at risk. Their populations are stable and their key habitats are generally secure at present.

This category also includes:

- 1) vertebrates with an Alberta breeding distribution that is *peripheral* to their North American distribution. (If populations of these 'peripherals' are declining in the province or elsewhere, these species may appear on **YELLOW, BLUE, OR RED LISTS**); and
- 2) bird species that migrate through Alberta and have not been recorded as breeding in the province; and
- 3) species considered as vagrant visitors in Alberta.

**Status Undetermined List:** This category includes those species not known to be at risk but for which insufficient information is available at present to determine status using this process.

Placement on this list identifies the need to gather information and clarify the status of these species before the next status review.

## 2.2 The Evaluation Process

The working list of vertebrate species for evaluation was taken from "The Vertebrate Species of Alberta" ( MacDonald *et al.* *Alberta Naturalist*. 23:1-16, 1992).

In order to group species into one of the five status categories, a relatively simple system was adopted to identify factors that affect all populations and to provide a numerical score that reflects relative status in Alberta (**Table 2**). Five criteria were chosen for evaluation:

### 1. Abundance

*Scored 0-12*

Based on an estimate of the current number of breeding individuals (or breeding pairs of birds) in Alberta.

### 2. Breeding Distribution

*Scored 0-6*

The current breeding distribution in Alberta based on the relative abundance of a species within Alberta's major natural regions (Rocky Mountain, Foothills, Parkland, Grassland and Boreal Forest, Canadian Shield, **Appendix 3**). Within each natural region, if this distribution is patchy, it is termed "localized"; if it is widespread in a natural region, it is termed "general".

### 3. Habitat Integrity

*Scored 0-12*

The relative security of currently occupied habitats in Alberta over the next 10 years. This is a broad evaluation of all habitat risks, including both loss and degradation as a result of human impacts.

### 4. Population Trend

*Scored 0-18*

Anticipated change in the breeding population over the next 10 years. In the absence of other indicators, this is a projection of current population trends. Population trend is a key indicator of a species' 'health,' and is therefore weighted more heavily than other criteria used in the evaluation process.

### 5. National/International Status

*Scored 0-12*

The significance of the Alberta population relative to the Canadian and world populations of a particular species, and the status of the species in other parts of its range.

Descriptive and numeric categories were developed to assist in applying a rank score from zero (lowest risk) to 6, 12, or 18 (highest risk), depending on the category (**Table 1**). Numeric scores for each criterion were totaled to arrive at an overall species status score. Where available, quantitative data were used in this evaluation.

For many species, however, quantitative data are lacking, and this process relied upon indirect and/or qualitative information. The raw species scores reflect a continuum in species status from those at high risk (RED) to species with secure and healthy populations in Alberta (GREEN). Examples of raw scores for several species are provided in **Table 3**.

**Table 2 Species Ranking Criteria**

CRITERION		RANK SCORE												
		12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
<b>Abundance</b> Number of breeding individuals (or pairs) of birds in Alberta.	Very Low 0-100	Low 101-500	Limited 501-1000	Limited 1001-5000	Moderate 5000 or migrant	Common >5000 or migrant								
<b>Breeding Distribution</b> Within 5 natural regions.	6	5	4	3	2	1	0							
	<b>Very Restricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Localized</b>	<b>General but Localized</b>	<b>General but Localized</b>	<b>General but Widespread</b>								
	Localized in 1 natural region	General in 1 or localized in 2 natural regions	General in 2 or localized in 3 natural regions	General in 2 or localized in 3 natural regions	General in 2 or localized in 3 natural regions	General in 4 or 5 natural regions or migrant								
	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
<b>Habitat Integrity</b> Scoring limited to habitat occupied at present and includes all environmental threats.	Severely Threatened	Threatened	Deteriorating		At Risk	Not at Risk								
	>50% of habitat liable to be destroyed in 10 years	>10% of habitat liable to be destroyed in 10 years	Major long term loss or degradation	Degradation in 10 years										
	18	16	14	12	10	8	6	4	2	0				
<b>Population Trend</b>	Below Minimum Viable Population	Rapidly Decreasing	Slow Downward Trend	Stable	Increasing									
		>20% decline over a 10-year period		+/- 5% over a 10-year period	or peripheral or migrants									
	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	
<b>National/ International Status</b>	Unique	The only world population occurs in Alberta or endangered elsewhere	Significant proportion of Canadian population and at risk elsewhere	Moderate proportion of Canadian population and at risk or rare elsewhere	Common									

The final step in the evaluation process was sorting the species into the five lists (RED, BLUE, YELLOW, GREEN, STATUS UNDETERMINED). The creation of categories within the continuum of raw scores is somewhat subjective. The range of scores used to define each category was selected by applying hypothetical examples to the scoring system, and by comparing the raw scores of species known to be at great risk (e.g. Peregrine Falcon) with those known to be secure (e.g. American Robin).

Species were assigned to each status category

according to the following range of scores:

Overall Score	Category
31 to 60	Red
21 to 30	Blue
11 to 20	Yellow
0 to 10	Green

If insufficient information was available to estimate a rank score for one or more of the five evaluation criteria, the species was placed in the STATUS UNDETERMINED category.

**Table 3 Examples of Numerical Species Evaluations for Alberta Vertebrates**

Species	Abundance	Breeding Distribution	Habitat Integrity	Population Trend	National/International Status	Total Points
Swift Fox	10	6	2	18	6	42
Piping Plover	10	4	4	10	6	34
Northern Leopard Frog	9	6	5	14	3	37
Ord's Kangaroo Rat	3	6	6	5	6	26
Ferruginous Hawk	3	6	6	5	6	26
Short-horned Lizard	9	6	3	4	6	28
Red Squirrel	0	1	0	5	0	6
American Robin	0	0	0	5	0	5
Boreal Toad	0	2	0	4	3	9

**T**he results of Alberta's status evaluation process for amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals are presented in **Tables 4 through 10**.

**Tables 4, 5, 6, and 7** present the results of the 1996 status evaluation process for amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals respectively. Species within these tables are grouped by status list and are ordered alphabetically.

**Table 8** provides status and background on all **RED LIST** species in the province. Species within the table are grouped by taxonomic class and are ordered alphabetically.

**Table 9** provides status and background on all **BLUE LIST** species in the province. Species within the table are grouped by taxonomic class and are ordered alphabetically.

**Table 10** provides status and background on all **YELLOW A** and **YELLOW B LIST** species in the province. Species within the table are grouped by taxonomic class and are ordered alphabetically.

The current status and background information provided in **Tables 8, 9, and 10** is intended to foster a greater understanding of the factors that contributed to the evaluation of the species.

**Appendix 1** provides a taxonomic list of Alberta vertebrates and both their historic and current status.

## Table 4 Status of Alberta Amphibians

### Amphibians – Red List *Please Note: This is not an Endangered Species List*

Northern Leopard Frog  
Great Plains Toad  
Canadian Toad

### Amphibians – Blue List *Please Note: This is not a Threatened Species List*

Spotted Frog  
Plains Spadefoot Toad

### Amphibians – Yellow B List

Long-toed Salamander

### Amphibians – Green List

Boreal Toad  
Boreal Chorus Frog  
Tiger Salamander  
Wood Frog

## Table 5 Status of Alberta Reptiles

### Reptiles – Blue List *Please Note: This is not a Threatened Species List*

Prairie Rattlesnake  
Short-horned Lizard  
Western Hognose Snake

### Reptiles – Yellow A List

Plains Garter Snake  
Red-sided Garter Snake  
Wandering Garter Snake

### Reptiles – Yellow B List

Bull Snake  
Western Painted Turtle

## Table 6 Status of Alberta Birds

### Birds – Extirpated

Greater Prairie Chicken

### Birds – Red List *Please Note: This is not an Endangered Species List*

Burrowing Owl

Peregrine Falcon

Piping Plover

Whooping Crane

### Birds – Blue List *Please Note: This is not a Threatened Species List*

Bay-breasted Warbler

Sage Grouse

Black-throated Green Warbler

Short-eared Owl

Cape May Warbler

Sprague's Pipit

Ferruginous Hawk

Trumpeter Swan

Long-billed Curlew

### Birds – Yellow A List

American Bittern

Northern Harrier

Baird's Sparrow

Pied-billed Grebe

Black Tern

Prairie Falcon

Brown Thrasher

Red-necked Grebe

Clay-colored Sparrow

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Harlequin Duck

Swainson's Hawk

Horned Grebe

Upland Sandpiper

Lesser Yellowlegs

Western Meadowlark

Loggerhead Shrike

### Birds – Yellow B List

American Avocet

Grasshopper Sparrow

American Dipper

Great Blue Heron

American White Pelican

Great Gray Owl

Bald Eagle

Great-crested Flycatcher

Barred Owl

Herring Gull

Black Swift

Lark Sparrow

Black-and-white Warbler

Marsh Wren

Black-backed Woodpecker

Mountain Plover

Black-crowned Night Heron

Mourning Warbler

Black-necked Stilt

Northern Goshawk

Bobolink

Osprey

Boreal Owl

Pileated Woodpecker

Brewer's Sparrow

Ring-necked Pheasant

Broad-winged Hawk

Rock Wren

Brown Creeper

Sandhill Crane

Canada Warbler

Sedge Wren

Caspian Tern

Steller's Jay

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Townsend's Warbler

Clark's Grebe

Turkey Vulture

Clark's Nutcracker

Western (or Cordilleran) Flycatcher

Cooper's Hawk

Western Grebe

Double-crested Cormorant

Western Tanager

Forster's Tern

White-faced Ibis

Golden Eagle

Willet

Golden-crowned Sparrow

Yellow-breasted Chat

**Table 6 Status of Alberta Birds****Birds – Green List (breeding)**

Alder Flycatcher	Eastern Kingbird	Ovenbird	White-crowned Sparrow
American Black Duck	Eastern Phoebe	Palm Warbler	White-tailed Ptarmigan
American Coot	European Starling	Philadelphia Vireo	White-throated Sparrow
American Crow	Evening Grosbeak	Pine Grosbeak	White-winged Crossbill
American Goldfinch	Fox Sparrow	Pine Siskin	White-winged Scoter
American Kestrel	Franklin's Gull	Purple Finch	Wild Turkey
American Pipit	Gadwall	Purple Martin	Willow Ptarmigan
American Redstart	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Red-breasted Merganser	Wilson's Phalarope
American Robin	Gray Catbird	Red-breasted Nuthatch	Wilson's Warbler
American Tree Sparrow	Gray Jay	Red Crossbill	Winter Wren
American Wigeon	Gray Partridge	Red-eyed Vireo	Wood Duck
Bank Swallow	Gray-cheeked Thrush	Red-naped Sapsucker	Yellow Warbler
Barn Swallow	Great Horned Owl	Red-tailed Hawk	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Barrow's Goldeneye	Greater Yellowlegs	Red-winged Blackbird	Yellow-headed Blackbird
Belted Kingfisher	Green-winged Teal	Redhead	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Black-billed Magpie	Hairy Woodpecker	Ring-billed Gull	
Black-capped Chickadee	Hammond's Flycatcher	Ring-necked Duck	
Black-headed Grosbeak	Hermit Thrush	Rock Dove	
Blackburnian Warbler	Hooded Merganser	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	
Blackpoll Warbler	Horned Lark	Rosy Finch	
Blue Grouse	House Sparrow	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	
Blue Jay	House Wren	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	
Blue-winged Teal	Killdeer	Ruddy Duck	
Bohemian Waxwing	Lark Bunting	Ruffed Grouse	
Bonaparte's Gull	Lazuli Bunting	Rufous Hummingbird	
Boreal Chickadee	Le Conte's Sparrow	Rufous-sided Towhee	
Brewer's Blackbird	Least Flycatcher	Rusty Blackbird	
Brown-headed Cowbird	Lesser Scaup	Savannah Sparrow	
Bufflehead	Lincoln's Sparrow	Say's Phoebe	
California Gull	Long-eared Owl	Sharp-shinned Hawk	
Calliope Hummingbird	MacGillivray's Warbler	Sharp-tailed Sparrow	
Canada Goose	Magnolia Warbler	Short-billed Dowitcher	
Canvasback	Mallard	Solitary Sandpiper	
Cedar Waxwing	Marbled Godwit	Solitary Vireo	
Chestnut-collared Longspur	McCown's Longspur	Song Sparrow	
Chipping Sparrow	Merlin	Sora	
Cinnamon Teal	Mew Gull	Spotted Sandpiper	
Cliff Swallow	Mountain Bluebird	Spruce Grouse	
Common Grackle	Mountain Chickadee	Swainson's Thrush	
Common Goldeneye	Mourning Dove	Swamp Sparrow	
Common Loon	Northern Flicker	Tennessee Warbler	
Common Merganser	Northern Hawk Owl	Three-toed Woodpecker	
Common Nighthawk	Northern Mockingbird	Townsend's Solitaire	
Common Raven	Northern Oriole	Tree Swallow	
Common Snipe	Northern Pintail	Varied Thrush	
Common Tern	Northern Rough-winged Swallow	Veery	
Common Yellowthroat	Northern Saw-whet Owl	Vesper Sparrow	
Connecticut Warbler	Northern Shoveler	Violet-green Swallow	
Dark-eyed Junco	Northern Shrike	Warbling Vireo	
Downy Woodpecker	Northern Waterthrush	Western Kingbird	
Dusky Flycatcher	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Western Wood-peewee	
Eared Grebe	Orange-crowned Warbler	White-breasted Nuthatch	

## Table 6 Status of Alberta Birds

### Birds – Green List (non-breeding: migrant or vagrant)

Anna's Hummingbird	Greater Scaup	Red-headed Woodpecker
Ancient Murrelet	Greater White-fronted Goose	Red-necked Phalarope
Arctic Tern	Green-backed Heron	Ross' Goose
Baird's Sandpiper	Gyrfalcon	Rough-legged Hawk
Band-tailed Pigeon	Harris' Sparrow	Ruddy Turnstone
Bendire's Thrasher	Hoary Redpoll	Ruff
Black Guillemot	Hooded Warbler	Sabine's Gull
Black-chinned Hummingbird	House Finch	Sanderling
Black Scoter	Hudsonian Godwit	Scarlet Tanager
Black-bellied Plover	Iceland Gull	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Black-legged Kittiwake	Indigo Bunting	Semipalmated Plover
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Kentucky Warbler	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Black-throated Gray Warbler	King Eider	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Lapland Longspur	Smith's Longspur
Brambling	Least Sandpiper	Snow Bunting
Brant	Lesser Golden Plover	Snow Goose
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Snowy Egret
Carolina Wren	Little Blue Heron	Snowy Owl
Cassin's Sparrow	Lewis' Woodpecker	Snowy Plover
Cattle Egret	Little Gull	Stilt Sandpiper
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	Long-billed Dowitcher	Surfbird
Common Crane	Long-tailed Jaeger	Suff Scoter
Common Poorwill	Mongolian Plover	Thayer's Gull
Common Redpoll	Nashville Warbler	Tufted Duck
Costa's Hummingbird	Northern Cardinal	Tundra Swan
Curlew Sandpiper	Northern Parula	Tricolored Heron
Dickcissel	Northern Wheatear	Wandering Tattler
Dunlin	Oldsquaw	Western Bluebird
Eastern Bluebird	Pacific Loon	Western Sandpiper
Eastern Screech-Owl	Parasitic Jaeger	Western Screech Owl
Eskimo Curlew	Pectoral Sandpiper	Whimbrel
Eurasian Wigeon	Pine Warbler	White-rumped Sandpiper
Garganey	Pomarine Jaeger	Williamson's Sapsucker
Glaucoous Gull	Red Knot	Wood Thrush
Glaucoous-winged Gull	Red Phalarope	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Great Egret	Red-breasted Sapsucker	Yellow-billed Loon
Greater Black-backed Gull	Red-throated Loon	

### Birds – Status Undetermined List

Black-billed Cuckoo
Cassin's Finch
Common Poorwill
Northern Pygmy Owl
Sage Thrasher
Virginia Rail
Willow Flycatcher
Yellow Rail
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

## Table 7 Status of Alberta Mammals

### Mammals – Extirpated

Black-footed Ferret

### Mammals – Red List *Please Note: This is not an Endangered Species List*

Swift Fox

Wood Bison

### Mammals – Blue List *Please Note: This is not a Threatened Species List*

Grizzly Bear

Northern Long-eared Bat

Ord's Kangaroo Rat

Red-tailed Chipmunk

Woodland Caribou

Wolverine

### Mammals – Yellow A List

Badger

Long-tailed Weasel

Richardson's Ground Squirrel

Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel

### Mammals - Yellow B List

Bobcat

Canada Lynx

Cougar

Fisher

Hoary Marmot

Northern Flying Squirrel

Northern Grasshopper Mouse

Nuttall's Cottontail

Olive-backed Pocket Mouse

Pronghorn

Wandering Shrew

Water Vole

Western Harvest Mouse

Western Small-footed Bat

### Mammals – Green List

American Pine Marten

Arctic Fox

Arctic Shrew

Beaver

Big Brown Bat

Bighorn Sheep

Black Bear

Bushy-tailed Woodrat

Columbian Ground Squirrel

Coyote

Deer Mouse

Dusky Shrew

Elk (Wapiti)

Ermine

Gray Squirrel

Golden-mantled Ground

Squirrel

Heather Vole

House Mouse

Least Chipmunk

Least Weasel

Little Brown Bat

Long-tailed Vole

Masked Shrew

Meadow Jumping Mouse

Meadow Vole

Mink

Moose

Mountain Goat

Mule Deer

Muskrat

Northern Bog Lemming

Northern Pocket Gopher

Pika

Porcupine

Pygmy Shrew

Raccoon

Red Fox

Red Squirrel

River Otter

Silver-haired Bat

Snowshoe Hare

Southern Red-backed Vole

Striped Skunk

Water Shrew

Western Jumping Mouse

White-tailed Deer

White-tailed Jack Rabbit

Wolf

Woodchuck

Yellow-bellied Marmot

Yellow-pine Chipmunk

### Mammals – Green List (migrant, vagrants)

Black Rat

Gray Fox

Norway Rat

Red Bat

### Mammals – Status Undetermined

Brown Lemming

Franklin's Ground Squirrel

Hoary Bat

Long-eared Bat

Long-legged Bat

Prairie Shrew

Prairie Vole

Sagebrush Vole

Taiga Vole

**Table 8 Status and Background of Red List Species**

Species	Population Notes	Background
<b>Amphibians (Red List)</b>		
Canadian Toad	Once common in boreal and parkland habitats.	Dramatic decline in parkland distribution. Monitoring of apparently declining populations required.
Great Plains Toad	Rare prairie resident. Total population unknown, but apparently declining.	Critical prairie breeding habitat declining because of drought, drainage, and cultivation of wetlands. Clean water, apparently required for breeding, can be compromised by intensive livestock use of breeding area ponds.
Northern Leopard Frog	Has declined severely in recent years. Extirpated from North Saskatchewan drainage basin.	Previously common and widespread species but has disappeared from most of its Alberta range. Similar but less extensive population declines have been documented throughout Canada. Protection of remnant breeding areas essential while investigations of the biological needs continue.
<b>Birds (Red List)</b>		
Burrowing Owl	Endangered animal. Alberta estimated to have 700 to 900 breeding pairs (1995) and declining.	Population declining dramatically in prairie habitats across Canada. Threats include cultivation of nest sites, loss of ground squirrels, and pesticide use.
Peregrine Falcon	Endangered animal. Less than 50 breeding pairs in Alberta.	Continued provincial recovery of this species will depend on declining pesticide levels in prey, releases of captive-reared chicks into southern Alberta, and protection of wetland feeding areas.
Piping Plover	Endangered animal. Estimated to be 100 to 150 breeding pairs in Alberta.	Threatened or Endangered throughout North America. Recovery requires protection from human disturbance and management of key shoreline nesting habitats.
Whooping Crane	Endangered animal. Wild population less than 150 individuals.	All nest sites protected in Wood Buffalo National Park. Conservation of migratory habitats and potential breeding habitats in Alberta is required.
<b>Mammals (Red List)</b>		
Swift Fox	Endangered animal. Less than 150 animals re-established in Alberta.	Was extirpated. Major breeding and reintroduction program now underway in Alberta. Ability to maintain population in prairie Canada is uncertain.
Wood Bison	Endangered animal. Less than 70 free-ranging animals in Alberta. About 350 remain, in Elk Island National Park.	Restoration of this species in Alberta depends on resolution of disease concerns in northern Canada.

**Table 9 Status and Background of Blue List Species**

Species	Population Notes	Background
<b>Amphibians (Blue List)</b>		
Plains Spadefoot Toad	Population highly variable, related to annual availability of breeding ponds.	Recent extended drought in core prairie habitats has lowered breeding populations; associated drainage, consolidation, and cultivation of basins has decreased habitat availability.
Spotted Frog	Population status unknown.	Extremely limited distribution, possible population decline requires investigation.
<b>Reptiles (Blue List)</b>		
Prairie Rattlesnake	Relatively common in localized habitat.	Apparent population decline in similar habitat types in Saskatchewan. Maintenance in Alberta requires protection of key habitat elements such as hibernacula, and public education to reduce human-caused mortality.
Short-horned Lizard	Rare and localized.	Population status and trend unknown, but occurs in strongly localized and isolated sandy grassland/badland/river break habitats.
Western Hognose Snake	Extremely rare. Less than 100 site or specimen records available from Alberta.	Information on populations and hibernacula is essential to properly determine status and management requirements. Current population trend unknown.
<b>Birds (Blue List)</b>		
Bay-breasted Warbler	Unknown. Declining over large parts of North America range.	Dependent on old-growth forest. Forest management should ensure retention of breeding habitat.
Black-throated Green Warbler	Unknown. Declining in parts of North America range.	Dependent on old coniferous forest. Research in Saskatchewan indicates that the maintenance of breeding habitat in forest harvest areas will be challenging.
Cape May Warbler	Undetermined in Alberta.	Dependent on old-growth forest for breeding. Serious loss of neo-tropical wintering habitat.
Ferruginous Hawk	Endangered animal. Estimated to have 1400 to 1700 pairs in Alberta.	If current recovery of breeding population continues and key nesting and feeding habitats can be secured, this species can be considered for change to Yellow List.
Long-billed Curlew	Population low, possibly declining.	Relies on native prairie grassland and is thought to be declining throughout its Canadian range. Alberta data presently insufficient to allow effective management.

Species	Population Notes	Background
<b>Birds (Blue List) continued</b>		
Sage Grouse	Population declining in a very restricted area of unique habitat. In Canada, found only in Alberta and Saskatchewan	Population recovery depends on availability of sage brush-grassland habitat. Continued degradation of this unique habitat complex will be detrimental to population. Causes of rapid decline need to be studied.
Short-eared Owl	Unknown. Declines in all prairie provinces and in other parts of North American breeding range.	Causes of population decline unknown. Relies on maintenance of edges of larger wetland habitats. Irruptive nature of populations make population trend assessments extremely difficult.
Sprague's Pipit	Dramatic population declines documented	Breeding Bird Survey data show very large declines in this native grassland-dependent species. Research needed to identify cause of decline.
Trumpeter Swan	Endangered animal. Breeding population of less than 100 pairs.	Critical shortage of key winter habitat in the Tri-State area (Idaho, Montana, Wyoming) still limiting population growth. Existing breeding habitat carefully managed and relatively secure. Efforts underway to create second wintering area.
<b>Mammals (Blue List)</b>		
Grizzly Bear	Numbers relatively stable outside the national parks since 1980.	Found in the mountains, foothills and boreal forests of Alberta. Currently sustaining its population under a very restrictive sport hunting regime. Greatest threat is loss and degradation of wilderness habitats through resource extraction and recreational development.
Ord's Kangaroo Rat	Stable but very localized in sandhill and sand plain habitats of southeastern Alberta.	Maintenance of this rare species depends on availability and management of sand dunes and loose sand areas suitable for burrows.
Northern Long-eared Bat	Unknown. Very uncommon over known range.	Poorly known species that relies on very old trees for roosting. Need to incorporate habitat requirements into forest management.
Red-tailed Chipmunk	Population low, trend unknown.	Population localized in Waterton-West Castle area and is vulnerable to habitat loss.
Woodland Caribou	Endangered animal, population stable to declining. About 3500 individuals in province.	Concern over maintenance of old-growth forest to provide critical winter habitat. Management of predation in some populations, improved population monitoring, and habitat protection are being addressed.
Wolverine	Unknown. Possibly up to 1000 individuals.	Harvest of wolverine is reduced from 1985 level, but population status still unknown.

**Table 10 Status and Background of Yellow List Species**

Species	Population Notes	Background
<b>Reptiles (Yellow A List)</b>		
Plains Garter Snake	Common but localized. Public perception of long-term declines.	Public education combined with protection of key habitats (hibernacula) will benefit this species.
Red-sided Garter Snake	Common but localized. Public perception of declining populations.	Protection of key habitats and public education will ensure a stable population.
Wandering Garter Snake	Common but localized. Least abundant garter snake.	Maintenance of stable populations is dependent on habitat protection and public education.
<b>Birds (Yellow A List)</b>		
American Bittern	Unknown. Suspected declines in some areas of the province.	Relies on permanent to semi-permanent wetlands with well-developed emergent vegetation. Drainage, consolidation, and cultivation of these marshes is a continuing threat.
Baird's Sparrow	Population information poor. Some concern over population declines in parts of Alberta.	Concern over apparent population decline throughout Canadian range, possibly as a result of alteration of key prairie habitats. Clarification of population status and trend needed.
Black Tern	Unknown. Documented declines in Saskatchewan, and over large parts of North American breeding range.	Causes of population decline unknown. Relies on maintenance of larger marsh/wetland habitats.
Brown Thrasher	Unknown. Restricted distribution. Reports of declining numbers.	Primary habitats in Alberta include fence rows, tall dense brush on forest edges, and in coulees/valleys.
Clay-colored Sparrow	Despite being an abundant bird, evidence of population declines in recent years.	Breeding Bird Survey data indicate significant declines. Research needed to address causes.
Harlequin Duck	Unknown. Restricted distributions. Declines noted.	Naturalist records indicate a decline in the Jasper and Banff areas. Possible conflicts with recreational activities.
Horned Grebe	Declining throughout range in Alberta.	Drought-related disappearance of small ponds affects this species. Breeding Bird Survey data show sharp decline in the last two decades.
Lesser Yellowlegs	Populations in Alberta declining.	Affected by disappearance of wetlands. Breeding Bird Survey data show sharp decline in last 15 years.

Species	Population Notes	Background
<b>Birds (Yellow A List) continued</b>		
Loggerhead Shrike	Population low, poorly understood, and probably has declined in recent years. Estimate of about 2500 pairs in Alberta.	Concern over known population decline in much of Canada. Conservation of prairie shrub nesting habitat and improved information on population status and trend is necessary.
Northern Harrier	Concern over declining prairie/parkland breeding population.	Breeding and foraging habitats deteriorating. Relies on maintenance of edges of larger wetland habitats.
Pied-billed Grebe	Declining throughout range in Alberta.	Drought-related disappearance of small ponds affect this species. Breeding Bird Survey data from Alberta show declining numbers over the last two decades.
Prairie Falcon	Unclear. Historic range reduced in northern areas.	Core range in southern Alberta dependent on availability of secure nest sites and adequate ground squirrel prey base.
Red-necked Grebe	Common but may be declining.	This species is reasonably common where it is found, but possibly a slow downward trend in parkland areas.
Sharp-tailed Grouse	Relatively common throughout the grassland, central parkland and Peace River parklands.	Population is dependent on open grassland/shrubland during breeding season. Farming intensification has decreased habitat availability in central Alberta.
Swainson's Hawk	Sharp declines in prairie populations over the last decade.	Adult population subject to mass poisoning on winter range. Dependent on healthy ground squirrel populations.
Upland Sandpiper	Unknown.	Populations probably have declined with loss of native prairie grassland nesting areas. Appear to have relatively narrow habitat requirements.
Western Meadowlark	Long-term decline particularly in aspen parkland.	Breeding Bird Survey data show significant decline in Alberta over the last 30 years. Reduction in open grassland in northern part of range a factor.

## **Mammals (Yellow A List)**

Badger	Locally distributed. Varying opinions as to population trends.	Badgers are dependent on ground squirrel populations and their burrows provide a key habitat element for Burrowing Owls.
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Species	Population Notes	Background
<b>Mammals (Yellow A List) continued</b>		
Long-tailed Weasel	Locally abundant. Disappearing from some habitats.	Habitat lost through some agricultural activities.
Richardson's Ground Squirrel	Common species but in decline.	Effective poisoning campaigns and habitat alteration continues to erode populations. Populations increasingly fragmented and restricted to remnants of unbroken ground. An important prey species for several Red, Blue, and Yellow A List raptor species.
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	Unknown.	Some consensus in natural history community that species has declined.
<b>Amphibians (Yellow B List)</b>		
Long-toed Salamander	Locally common. Limited number of patchy, disjunct populations.	Isolated populations focused in mountain pass riparian areas. Vulnerable to potential habitat destruction/alteration associated with industrial, recreational, and transportation development.
<b>Reptiles (Yellow B List)</b>		
Bull Snake	Stable or possibly declining population.	Most vulnerable at winter dens. Requires conservation of prairie grassland summer range, protection of hibernacula, and better population information.
Western Painted Turtle	Probably fewer than 100 individuals.	Known only from specific locations in Cypress Hills, lower Milk River, and Oldman River. Very low population and extremely local and limited distribution leave this species particularly vulnerable to site-specific habitat loss.
<b>Birds (Yellow B List)</b>		
American Avocet	Locally abundant in prairie and parkland ecoregions.	Drought and the degradation of prairie wetlands in province have further restricted the distribution of this species.
American Dipper	Uncommon and locally distributed.	No current threats. Their restricted distribution is the primary consideration for Yellow B listing.
American White Pelican	Endangered animal. Estimated to have 1000 pairs. Number of nesting pairs increasing.	Population increasing but the number of active colonies is decreasing. Comprehensive colony protection essential. Concern of possible disease risk. Drought across other parts of prairies may have contributed to the increase in Alberta.

Species	Population Notes	Background
<b>Birds (Yellow B List) continued</b>		
Bald Eagle	Populations recovering over most of range.	A species once at risk throughout much of its North American range, now recovering. Low density in Alberta. Nests vulnerable to human disturbance.
Barred Owl	Uncommon, probably fewer than 1000 breeding pairs in Alberta. Decline in parkland.	An interior forest species: requires larger blocks of mature dense woodland. Forest fragmentation is detrimental. Forest management should ensure breeding habitat is retained.
Black Swift	Extremely rare. Summer resident.	Known from only two nesting areas in the mountain parks, but a long-term resident at at least one site. Nesting habitat vulnerable to disturbance.
Black-and-white Warbler	Uncommon inhabitant of boreal, parkland and foothills forests.	Declining over much of its North American range. Found primarily in mature mixed-wood stands of the boreal forest natural region.
Black-backed Woodpecker	Unknown.	Maintenance of mature coniferous forests important. Standing dead trees (snags) required for nesting.
Black-crowned Night Heron	Population has increased in Alberta over past 20 years.	Colonial species reliant on marsh habitat. Requires special management.
Black-necked Stilt	Small “founder” populations.	Very localized distribution makes populations vulnerable to wetland disturbances.
Bobolink	Small numbers (less than 500 breeding pairs in Alberta).	Dependent on tall-grass meadows. Very local in distribution.
Boreal Owl	Distribution and population size largely unknown.	Dependent on nest cavities in mature to old-growth coniferous forests. Research needed to define and incorporate habitat needs into forest management.
Brewer's Sparrow	Uncertain, but population decline suspected.	The prairie population of this species relies on the availability of natural sagebrush ecosystems.
Broad-winged Hawk	Uncommon. Decline noted in aspen parkland, particularly around urban areas.	Requires large stands of mature to old-growth forest in the parkland and southern boreal forest. Careful woodlot management by agricultural and forest operations required to maintain breeding habitat.

Species	Population Notes	Background
<b>Birds (Yellow B List) continued</b>		
Brown Creeper	Poorly understood, probably fewer than 5000 pairs.	Range restricted to foothills, parkland and southern mixed-wood fringe. Relies on mature woodlands for nesting. Forest management should recognize and provide specialized foraging and nesting requirements.
Canada Warbler	Unknown.	Requires old mixed-wood stands with very dense understory, often adjacent to riparian areas.
Caspian Tern	Very rare. Locally distributed.	Protection of breeding sites is necessary to ensure viable population.
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Very localized.	Limited distribution and low abundance in the boreal mixed-wood of eastern Alberta.
Clark's Grebe	Extremely localized. Less than 20 breeding pairs in Alberta.	Peripheral species in Alberta but small local populations are important in the biodiversity of the province.
Clark's Nutcracker	Stable.	Found only in mountain habitats.
Cooper's Hawk	Unknown.	Urbanization of prime habitats a potential problem. Further clearing of parkland aspen bluffs threatens nesting habitat.
Double-crested Cormorant	Increasing. Locally distributed.	Designated as Endangered in Alberta in 1977. Now removed from this list. Continued protection of colonies required.
Forster's Tern	Rare. Breeding locations very local.	Protection of breeding sites important.
Golden Eagle	Rare and local breeder. Populations stable, estimated 100 to 250 breeding pairs in Alberta.	Very low population spread over broad areas. Site-specific nest site protection is appropriate. Large numbers of northern breeders migrate through Alberta.
Golden-crowned Sparrow	Very restricted distribution.	No current threats to habitat, but restricted distribution is a primary consideration for Yellow B listing.
Grasshopper Sparrow	Uncommon with a restricted distribution in Alberta.	Prime natural sandhill habitats may be vulnerable to overgrazing, although this species may be able to inhabit tame grassland and pastures.
Great Blue Heron	Stable. Approximately 75 colonies with 1500 breeding pairs.	Entire Alberta population is dependent on fewer than 100 known nesting colonies. Management of key habitats and protection from human disturbance is essential.

Species	Population Notes	Background
<b>Birds (Yellow B List) continued</b>		
Great-crested Flycatcher	Unknown, probably less than 300 breeding pairs in the province.	Scarce species. Apparently not sensitive to habitat fragmentation, but brushing activities in parkland may be degrading habitat.
Great Gray Owl	Unknown.	A naturally scarce species, widely distributed in foothill and boreal habitats. Requires stands of mature forest for nesting.
Herring Gull	Probably stable.	Range restricted to extreme northeastern Alberta (Lake Athabasca region).
Lark Sparrow	Uncommon. Locally distributed.	Blue listed in B.C. A large portion of the Canadian range occurs in Alberta.
Marsh Wren	Unknown.	Drought conditions over the last 10 years have eliminated some breeding areas. Drainage and consolidation of prairie wetlands a continuing threat.
Mountain Plover	Endangered animal. Four to six pairs known to breed in province.	Extreme northern limit of breeding range occurs in Alberta. Requires native grassland management to provide preferred open nest sites. A peripheral species.
Mourning Warbler	Unknown. Uncommon in Alberta.	Breeds primarily in mature to old-growth aspen stands.
Northern Goshawk	Unknown.	Maintenance of mature forest breeding habitat needs to be incorporated into forest planning on both public and private lands.
Osprey	Unknown. Suggested decline in western North America.	Continued protection of specific nest sites desirable.
Pileated Woodpecker	Probably stable.	Requires mature to old-growth trees for nesting. Abandoned nest cavities provide essential habitat for several other forest species. Maintenance of breeding habitat needs to be incorporated into forest management on both public and private lands.
Ring-necked Pheasant	Introduced species. Important game bird that has decreased considerably because of habitat loss. Populations fluctuate with winter severity.	Habitat retention on farmland is essential.
Rock Wren	Very local in distribution.	Alberta has about 30% of the Canadian distribution. Habitats presently secure.

Species	Population Notes	Background
<b>Birds (Yellow B List) continued</b>		
Sandhill Crane	Unknown population size.	Sparsely distributed through boreal and foothill bogs and marshes. Sensitive to human disturbance. Land-use planning needs to incorporate the maintenance of breeding habitat.
Sedge Wren	Local and uncommon in Alberta.	Drought conditions combined with drainage of wetlands have degraded nesting habitat.
Townsend's Warbler	Unknown. Range restricted to montane biome.	Restricted to old-growth coniferous forest in the east slopes. Maintenance of breeding habitat will require careful forest management planning.
Turkey Vulture	Probably fewer than 100 breeding pairs. Trend uncertain.	Known breeding areas very localized, focused on central Red Deer River valley, with some breeding north to Cold Lake.
Western Flycatcher	A rare species in Alberta and locally distributed.	Relative rarity and restricted distribution responsible for Yellow B status.
Western Grebe	Local and uncommon in Alberta. Believed stable.	Nesting colonies located in emergent wetland vegetation.
Western Tanager	Unknown. Declines observed in other areas of range.	Prefers old coniferous and mixed-wood forest. Obligate neotropical migrant.
White-faced Ibis	Less than 20 pairs. Very local in distribution.	Peripheral species in Alberta. Population disjunct from populations to the south. A relatively new and important addition to Alberta's biodiversity.
Willet	Unknown, some indications of a decline.	Drought conditions and drainage of wetlands in prairie/parkland detrimental to this species. Reports of declining numbers come from prairie parts of range.
Winter Wren	Unknown, possibly declining in eastern Canada.	Very local and disjunct range (i.e. from West Castle area and Winefred Lake). Prefers mature moist coniferous forest, especially along streams and lakes.
Yellow-breasted Chat	Unknown, very restricted distribution.	Inhabits dense, shrubby cottonwood understory along prairie rivers. Concern over habitat deterioration.

Species	Population Notes	Background
<b>Mammals (Yellow B List)</b>		
Bobcat	Perhaps fewer than 1000 individuals.	Harvest of Bobcats is very low but populations presumed to be stable.
Canada Lynx	Cyclic species. Estimate less than 8000 individuals at bottom of the cycle.	Population decreasing in recent years and some concern exists over habitat loss. Harvest now set by quota.
Cougar	Population appears stable at approximately 600 outside the national parks and restricted areas.	Primarily in southern mountains and foothills, but occasionally range into other areas. North of the Bow River, populations may be limited by prey availability.
Fisher	Perhaps fewer than 10,000 breeding individuals.	Fisher harvest has continued to decline since 1985. Population status is unknown.
Hoary Marmot	Distribution restricted to montane areas.	Relatively small populations and limited distribution give this species a Yellow list profile; however, habitats currently secure.
Mountain Goat	Slight decline has occurred since 1980.	Occupy localized habitats in the mountain ecoregion. Recent past numbers dwindled due to poor population recruitment and overhunting. With closed hunting seasons, numbers expected to recover gradually. Transplants to previously occupied habitats have been successful.
Northern Flying Squirrel	Unknown.	Largely dependent on old-growth forest and cavity excavators like Pileated Woodpecker.
Northern Grasshopper Mouse	Unknown. Restricted distribution.	Found on open, sandy, grassland habitat, interspersed with sage brush.
Nuttall's Cottontail	Total population of fewer than 5000 animals.	Range restricted to specific prairie habitats which are considered to be declining.
Pronghorn (Antelope)	Population levels fluctuate depending on winter and summer climatic conditions.	Found mainly in the southeastern portion of the province.
Wandering Shrew	Extremely rare. Population size unknown, estimated at fewer than 100 breeding individuals.	Known from only seven verified records in West Castle area.
Water Vole	Population estimated at between 1000 and 5000 individuals. Trend unknown.	Extremely restricted range with most specimen records from the Bow River to Turner Valley region and Waterton area.
Western Harvest Mouse	Unknown. Distribution patchy and largely restricted to southeastern corner of the province.	Research needed on distribution and habitat requirements within Alberta.
Western Small-footed Bat	Unknown.	Concern for habitat security because of clumped, disjunct populations. Found only in prairie riverine habitats (cottonwoods and cliffs).

## Appendix 1 Taxonomic List of Alberta Vertebrates

### Amphibians

Common Name	Scientific Name	Current Status	Status in 1991
Tiger Salamander	<i>Ambystoma tigrinum</i>	Green	Green
Long-toed Salamander	<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum</i>	Yellow B	Red
Boreal Toad	<i>Bufo boreas</i>	Green	Green
Great Plains Toad	<i>Bufo cognatus</i>	Red	Red
Plains Spadefoot Toad	<i>Spea bombifrons</i>	Blue	Blue
Canadian Toad	<i>Bufo hemiophrys</i>	Red	Yellow
Spotted Frog	<i>Rana pretiosa</i>	Blue	Blue
Wood Frog	<i>Rana sylvatica</i>	Green	Green
Northern Leopard Frog	<i>Rana pipiens</i>	Red	Red
Boreal Chorus Frog	<i>Pseudacris triseriata</i>	Green	Green

### Reptiles

Common Name	Scientific Name	Current Status	Status in 1991
Western Painted Turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta</i>	Yellow B	Blue
Short-horned Lizard	<i>Phrynosoma douglasii</i>	Blue	Red
Western Hognose Snake	<i>Heterodon nasicus</i>	Blue	Red
Bull Snake	<i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>	Yellow B	Yellow
Wandering Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis elegans</i>	Yellow A	Yellow
Plains Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis radix</i>	Yellow A	Yellow
Red-sided Garter Snake	<i>Thamnophis sirtalis</i>	Yellow A	Yellow
Prairie Rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus viridis</i>	Blue	Blue

### Birds

Common Name	Scientific Name	Current Status	Status in 1991
Red-throated Loon	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Green	Green
Pacific Loon	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>	Green	Green
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Green	Yellow
Yellow-billed Loon	<i>Gavia adamsii</i>	Green	Green
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Yellow A	Green
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Yellow A	Green
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Yellow A	Yellow
Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Green	Green
Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	Yellow B	Yellow
Clark's Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus clarkii</i>	Yellow B	SU
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	Yellow B	Blue
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Yellow B	Yellow
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Yellow A	Yellow
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Yellow B	Yellow
Great Egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Green	Green
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Green	Green
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Green	Not Listed

## Appendix 1 Taxonomic List of Alberta Vertebrates

### Birds (continued)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Current Status	Status in 1991
Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	Green	Not Listed
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Green	Green
Green-backed Heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	Green	Green
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Yellow B	Yellow
White-faced Ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	Yellow B	Green
Tundra Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Green	Green
Trumpeter Swan	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	Blue	Red
Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Green	Green
Snow Goose	<i>Anser caerulescens</i>	Green	Green
Ross' Goose	<i>Anser rosii</i>	Green	Green
Brant	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Green	Green
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Green	Green
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Green	Green
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Green	Yellow
American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	Green	Green
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Green	Yellow
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Green	Yellow
Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Green	Green
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	Green	Yellow
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>	Green	Yellow
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Green	Yellow
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Green	Yellow
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Green	Green
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	Green	Yellow
Canvasback	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	Green	Yellow
Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>	Green	Green
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	Green	Green
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Green	Not Listed
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Green	Green
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Green	Yellow
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Green	Green
Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	Yellow A	Green
Oldsquaw	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Green	Green
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Green	Green
Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	Green	Green
White-winged Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	Green	Green
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Green	Green
Barrow's Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala islandica</i>	Green	Green
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	Green	Green
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Green	Green
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Green	Green
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Green	Green
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Green	Green
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Yellow B	Blue
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Yellow B	Blue
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Yellow B	Blue
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Yellow A	SU
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Green	SU
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Yellow B	Blue

## Appendix 1 Taxonomic List of Alberta Vertebrates

### Birds (continued)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Current Status	Status in 1991
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Yellow B	Yellow
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	Yellow B	SU
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Yellow A	Green
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Green	Green
Ferruginous Hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	Blue	Red
Rough-legged Hawk	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Green	Green
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Yellow B	Yellow
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Green	Green
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Green	Green
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Red	Red
Gyrfalcon	<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Green	Green
Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Yellow A	Blue
Gray Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	Green	Green
Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Yellow A	Yellow
Spruce Grouse	<i>Dendragapus canadensis</i>	Green	Green
Blue Grouse	<i>Dendragapus obscurus</i>	Green	Green
Willow Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	Green	Green
White-tailed Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus leucurus</i>	Green	Green
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	Green	Green
Sage Grouse	<i>Centrocercus urophasianus</i>	Blue	Yellow
Greater Prairie Chicken	<i>Tympanuchus cupido</i>	Extirpated	Extirpated
Sharp-tailed Grouse	<i>Tympanuchus phasianellus</i>	Yellow A	Yellow
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Green	Green
Yellow Rail	<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	SU	SU
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	SU	SU
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	Green	SU
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Green	Green
Sandhill Crane	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	Yellow B	SU
Common Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	Green	Green
Whooping Crane	<i>Grus americana</i>	Red	Red
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Green	Green
Lesser Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	Green	Green
Mongolian Plover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	Green	Green
Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Green	Green
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	Green	Green
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melanotos</i>	Red	Red
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Green	Green
Mountain Plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Yellow B	Red
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	Yellow B	Green
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	Yellow B	SU
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	Green	Green
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	Green	Green
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	Green	SU
Willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	Yellow B	SU
Wandering Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus incanus</i>	Green	Green
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	Green	Green
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Yellow A	Red
*Eskimo Curlew	<i>Numenius borealis</i>	Green	Blue
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Green	Green

\*This species is critically endangered nationally in Canada and may be extinct. As it did not breed in Alberta it has now been placed on the Green list like all other migrant species.

## Appendix 1 Taxonomic List of Alberta Vertebrates

### Birds (continued)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Current Status	Status in 1991
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Blue	Red
Hudsonian Godwit	<i>Limosa haemastica</i>	Green	Green
Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	Green	SU
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Green	Green
Surfbird	<i>Aphriza virgata</i>	Green	Green
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Green	Green
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Green	Green
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	Green	Green
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	Green	Green
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Green	Green
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	Green	Green
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	Green	Green
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Green	Green
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Green	Green
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Green	Green
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Green	Green
Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	Green	Green
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	Green	Green
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Green	Green
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	Green	SU
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	Green	Green
Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	Green	Yellow
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	Green	Green
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Green	Green
Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicaria</i>	Green	Green
Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Green	Green
Long-tailed Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Green	Green
Franklin's Gull	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>	Green	Yellow
Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>	Green	Green
Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Larus philadelphicus</i>	Green	Yellow
Mew Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	Green	Green
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Green	Green
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Green	Green
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Yellow B	Yellow
Thayer's Gull	<i>Larus thayeri</i>	Green	Green
Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucopterus</i>	Green	Green
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Green	Not Listed
Glaucous-winged Gull	<i>Larus glaucescens</i>	Green	Green
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Green	Green
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Green	Green
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Green	Green
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Green	Green
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	Yellow B	Blue
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Green	Green
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Green	Green
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	Yellow B	SU
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Yellow A	Yellow
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Green	Green
Ancient Murrelet	<i>Synthliboramphus antiquus</i>	Green	Green

## Appendix 1 Taxonomic List of Alberta Vertebrates

### Birds (continued)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Current Status	Status in 1991
Rock Dove .....	<i>Columba livia</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Band-tailed Pigeon .....	<i>Columba fasciata</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Mourning Dove .....	<i>Zenaida macroura</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Passenger Pigeon .....	<i>Ectopistes migratorius</i> .....	Extinct .....	Extinct
Black-billed Cuckoo .....	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i> .....	SU .....	SU
Yellow-billed Cuckoo .....	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Eastern Screech-Owl .....	<i>Otus asio</i> .....	Green .....	Yellow
Western Screech Owl .....	<i>Otus kennicottii</i> .....	Green .....	Yellow
Great Horned Owl .....	<i>Bubo virginianus</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Snowy Owl .....	<i>Nyctea scandiaca</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Northern Hawk Owl .....	<i>Surnia ulula</i> .....	Green .....	Yellow
Northern Pygmy Owl .....	<i>Glaucidium gnoma</i> .....	SU .....	SU
Burrowing Owl .....	<i>Speotyto cunicularia</i> .....	Red .....	Red
Barred Owl .....	<i>Strix varia</i> .....	Yellow B .....	Yellow
Great Gray Owl .....	<i>Strix nebulosa</i> .....	Yellow B .....	Blue
Long-eared Owl .....	<i>Asio otus</i> .....	Green .....	Yellow
Short-eared Owl .....	<i>Asio flammeus</i> .....	Blue .....	SU
Boreal Owl .....	<i>Aegolius funereus</i> .....	Green .....	Yellow
Northern Saw-whet Owl .....	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Common Nighthawk .....	<i>Chordeiles minor</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Common Poorwill .....	<i>Phalaenoptilus nuttallii</i> .....	SU .....	SU
Black Swift .....	<i>Cypseloides niger</i> .....	Yellow B .....	Blue
Ruby-throated Hummingbird .....	<i>Archilochus colubris</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Black-chinned Hummingbird .....	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Anna's Hummingbird .....	<i>Calypte anna</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Costa's Hummingbird .....	<i>Calypte costae</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Calliope Hummingbird .....	<i>Stellula calliope</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Rufous Hummingbird .....	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Belted Kingfisher .....	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Lewis' Woodpecker .....	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Red-headed Woodpecker .....	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker .....	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Red-naped Sapsucker .....	<i>Sphyrapicus nuchalis</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Red-breasted Sapsucker .....	<i>Sphyrapicus ruber</i> .....	Green .....	Not Listed
Williamson's Sapsucker .....	<i>Sphyrapicus thyroideus</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Downy Woodpecker .....	<i>Picoides pubescens</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Hairy Woodpecker .....	<i>Picoides villosus</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Three-toed Woodpecker .....	<i>Picoides tridactylus</i> .....	Green .....	Yellow
Black-backed Woodpecker .....	<i>Picoides arcticus</i> .....	Yellow B .....	Yellow
Northern Flicker .....	<i>Colaptes auratus</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Pileated Woodpecker .....	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i> .....	Yellow B .....	Yellow
Olive-sided Flycatcher .....	<i>Contopus borealis</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Western Wood-peewee .....	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher .....	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i> .....	SU .....	SU
Alder Flycatcher .....	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Willow Flycatcher .....	<i>Empidonax traillii</i> .....	SU .....	SU
Least Flycatcher .....	<i>Empidonax minimus</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Hammond's Flycatcher .....	<i>Empidonax hammondi</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Dusky Flycatcher .....	<i>Empidonax oberholseri</i> .....	Green .....	SU

## Appendix 1 Taxonomic List of Alberta Vertebrates

### Birds (continued)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Current Status	Status in 1991
Cordilleran Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax occidentalis</i>	Yellow B	SU
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Green	SU
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Green	SU
Great-crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Yellow B	SU
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	Green	SU
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Green	Green
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	Green	Green
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Green	Green
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	Green	Yellow
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Green	Green
Violet-Green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	Green	SU
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Green	SU
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Green	Green
Cliff Swallow	<i>Hirundo pyrrhonota</i>	Green	Green
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Green	Green
Gray Jay	<i>Perisoreus canadensis</i>	Green	Green
Steller's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>	Yellow B	Green
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Green	Green
Clark's Nutcracker	<i>Nucifraga columbiana</i>	Yellow B	Yellow
Black-billed Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	Green	Green
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Green	Green
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Green	Green
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Parus atricapillus</i>	Green	Green
Mountain Chickadee	<i>Parus gambeli</i>	Green	Green
Boreal Chickadee	<i>Parus hudsonicus</i>	Green	Green
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Parus rufescens</i>	Green	Green
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Green	SU
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	Green	SU
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	Yellow B	Yellow
Rock Wren	<i>Salpinctes obsoletus</i>	Yellow B	SU
Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	Green	Green
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Green	Green
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Green	Yellow
Sedge Wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	Yellow B	SU
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	Yellow B	SU
American Dipper	<i>Cinclus mexicanus</i>	Yellow B	SU
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Green	Green
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	Green	Green
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila caerulea</i>	Green	Green
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Green	Green
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Green	Green
Western Bluebird	<i>Sialia mexicana</i>	Green	Green
Mountain Bluebird	<i>Sialia currucoides</i>	Green	Green
Townsend's Solitaire	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	Green	Green
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Green	SU
Gray-cheeked Thrush	<i>Catharus minimus</i>	Green	Yellow
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	Green	Green
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Green	Green
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Green	Not Listed

## Appendix 1 Taxonomic List of Alberta Vertebrates

### Birds (continued)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Current Status	Status in 1991
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Green	Green
Varied Thrush	<i>Ixoreus naevius</i>	Green	Yellow
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Green	SU
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Green	Green
Sage Thrasher	<i>Oreoscoptes montanus</i>	SU	Green
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	Yellow A	SU
Bendire's Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma bendirei</i>	Green	Green
American Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	Green	Green
Sprague's Pipit	<i>Anthus spragueii</i>	Blue	SU
Bohemian Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	Green	Green
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Green	Green
Northern Shrike	<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	Green	Green
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Yellow A	Red
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Green	Green
Solitary Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	Green	SU
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	Green	SU
Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	Green	SU
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Green	Green
Tennessee Warbler	<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>	Green	SU
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Vermivora celata</i>	Green	Green
Nashville Warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	Green	Green
Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	Green	Green
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Green	Green
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	Yellow B	SU
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	Green	SU
Cape May Warbler	<i>Dendroica tigrina</i>	Blue	Blue
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	Green	SU
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Green	Green
Black-throated Gray Warbler	<i>Dendroica nigrescens</i>	Green	Green
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Dendroica townsendi</i>	Yellow B	SU
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	Blue	Yellow
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	Green	Blue
Pine Warbler	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	Green	Green
Palm Warbler	<i>Dendroica palmarum</i>	Green	SU
Bay-breasted Warbler	<i>Dendroica castanea</i>	Blue	Blue
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>	Yellow B	SU
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilla varia</i>	Yellow B	SU
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Green	SU
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>	Green	Yellow
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	Green	SU
Kentucky Warbler	<i>Oporornis formosus</i>	Green	Green
Connecticut Warbler	<i>Oporornis agilis</i>	Green	SU
Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporornis philadelphica</i>	Green	SU
MacGillivray's Warbler	<i>Oporornis tolmiei</i>	Green	SU
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Green	Green
Hooded Warbler	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	Green	Not Listed
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	Green	SU
Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	Yellow B	SU
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	Yellow B	SU

## Appendix 1 Taxonomic List of Alberta Vertebrates

### Birds (continued)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Current Status	Status in 1991
Scarlet Tanager .....	<i>Piranga olivacea</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Western Tanager .....	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i> .....	Yellow B .....	SU
Northern Cardinal .....	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Rose-breasted Grosbeak .....	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Black-headed Grosbeak .....	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i> .....	Green .....	Yellow
Lazuli Bunting .....	<i>Passerina amoena</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Indigo Bunting .....	<i>Passerina cyanea</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Dickcissel .....	<i>Spiza americana</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Rufous-sided Towhee .....	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Cassin's sparrow .....	<i>Aimophila cassinii</i> .....	Green .....	Green
American Tree Sparrow .....	<i>Spizella arborea</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Chipping Sparrow .....	<i>Spizella passerina</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Clay-colored Sparrow .....	<i>Spizella pallida</i> .....	Yellow A .....	Green
Brewer's Sparrow .....	<i>Spizella breweri</i> .....	Yellow B .....	Blue
Vesper Sparrow .....	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Lark Sparrow .....	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i> .....	Yellow B .....	SU
Lark Bunting .....	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Savannah Sparrow .....	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Baird's Sparrow .....	<i>Ammodramus bairdii</i> .....	Yellow A .....	Red
Grasshopper Sparrow .....	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> .....	Yellow B .....	SU
Le Conte's Sparrow .....	<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Sharp-tailed Sparrow .....	<i>Ammodramus caudacutus</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Fox Sparrow .....	<i>Passerella iliaca</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Song Sparrow .....	<i>Melospiza melodia</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Lincoln's Sparrow .....	<i>Melospiza lincolni</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Swamp Sparrow .....	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i> .....	Green .....	SU
White-throated Sparrow .....	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Golden-crowned Sparrow .....	<i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i> .....	Yellow B .....	SU
White-crowned Sparrow .....	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Harris' Sparrow .....	<i>Zonotrichia querula</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Dark-eyed Junco .....	<i>Junco hyemalis</i> .....	Green .....	SU
McCown's Longspur .....	<i>Calcarius mccownii</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Lapland Longspur .....	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Smith's Longspur .....	<i>Calcarius pictus</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Chestnut-collared Longspur .....	<i>Calcarius ornatus</i> .....	Green .....	Yellow
Snow Bunting .....	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Bobolink .....	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i> .....	Yellow B .....	SU
Red-winged Blackbird .....	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Western Meadowlark .....	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i> .....	Yellow A .....	SU
Yellow-Headed Blackbird .....	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Rusty Blackbird .....	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Brewer's Blackbird .....	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Common Grackle .....	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Brown-headed Cowbird .....	<i>Molothrus ater</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Northern Oriole .....	<i>Icterus galbula</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Brambling .....	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Rosy Finch .....	<i>Leucosticte arctoa</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Pine Grosbeak .....	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i> .....	Green .....	SU
Purple Finch .....	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i> .....	SU .....	SU

## Appendix 1 Taxonomic List of Alberta Vertebrates

### Birds (continued)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Current Status	Status in 1991
Cassin's Finch	<i>Carpodacus cassini</i>	Green	Green
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Green	Green
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Green	Green
White-winged Crossbill	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	Green	SU
Common Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Green	Green
Hoary Redpoll	<i>Carduelis hornemannii</i>	Green	Green
Pine Siskin	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>	Green	Green
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	Green	SU
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	Green	SU
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Green	SU

### Mammals

Common Name	Scientific Name	Current Status	Status in 1991
Masked Shrew	<i>Sorex cinereus</i>	Green	Green
Prairie Shrew	<i>Sorex haydeni</i>	SU	Yellow
Dusky Shrew	<i>Sorex monticolus</i>	Green	Green
Wandering Shrew	<i>Sorex vagrans</i>	Yellow B	Blue
Water Shrew	<i>Sorex palustris</i>	Green	Green
Arctic Shrew	<i>Sorex arcticus</i>	Green	Green
Pygmy Shrew	<i>Sorex hoyi</i>	Green	Green
Little Brown Bat	<i>Myotis lucifugus</i>	Green	Yellow
Northern Long-eared Bat	<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Blue	SU
Long-eared Bat	<i>Myotis evotis</i>	SU	SU
Long-legged Bat	<i>Myotis volans</i>	SU	SU
Western Small-footed Bat	<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	Yellow B	Blue
Silver-haired Bat	<i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Green	Yellow
Big Brown Bat	<i>Eptesicus fuscus</i>	Green	Green
Red Bat	<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	Green	Green
Hoary Bat	<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	SU	Yellow
Pika	<i>Ochotona princeps</i>	Green	Yellow
Nuttall's Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus nuttallii</i>	Yellow B	Yellow
Snowshoe Hare	<i>Lepus americanus</i>	Green	Green
White-tailed Jack Rabbit	<i>Lepus townsendii</i>	Green	Yellow
Least Chipmunk	<i>Tamias minimus</i>	Green	Green
Yellow-pine Chipmunk	<i>Tamias amoena</i>	Green	Yellow
Red-tailed Chipmunk	<i>Tamias ruficaudus</i>	Blue	Blue
Woodchuck	<i>Marmota monax</i>	Green	Green
Yellow-bellied Marmot	<i>Marmota flaviventris</i>	Green	SU
Hoary Marmot	<i>Marmota caligata</i>	Yellow B	SU
Richardson's Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus richardsonii</i>	Yellow A	Green
Columbian Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus columbianus</i>	Green	Yellow
Thirteen-lined Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus tridecemlineatus</i>	Yellow A	SU
Franklin's Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus franklinii</i>	SU	SU
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel	<i>Spermophilus lateralis</i>	Green	SU
Gray Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	Green	Green

## Appendix 1 Taxonomic List of Alberta Vertebrates

### Mammals (continued)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Current Status	Status in 1991
Red Squirrel	<i>Tamiasciurus hudsonicus</i>	Green	Green
Northern Flying Squirrel	<i>Glaucomys sabrinus</i>	Yellow B	Green
Northern Pocket Gopher	<i>Thomomys talpoides</i>	Green	Green
Olive-backed Pocket Mouse	<i>Perognathus fasciatus</i>	Yellow B	SU
Ord's Kangaroo Rat	<i>Dipodomys ordii</i>	Blue	Blue
Beaver	<i>Castor canadensis</i>	Green	Green
Western Harvest Mouse	<i>Reithrodontomys megalotis</i>	Yellow B	Green
Deer Mouse	<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	Green	Green
Northern Grasshopper Mouse	<i>Onychomys leucogaster</i>	Yellow B	SU
Bushy-tailed Woodrat	<i>Neotoma cinerea</i>	Green	SU
Southern Red-backed Vole	<i>Clethrionomys gapperi</i>	Green	Green
Heather Vole	<i>Phenacomys intermedius</i>	Green	Green
Meadow Vole	<i>Microtus pennsylvanicus</i>	Green	Green
Long-tailed Vole	<i>Microtus longicaudus</i>	Green	Yellow
Taiga Vole	<i>Microtus xanthognathus</i>	SU	Red
Prairie Vole	<i>Microtus ochrogaster</i>	SU	Blue
Water Vole	<i>Microtus richardsoni</i>	Yellow B	Yellow
Sagebrush Vole	<i>Lagurus curtatus</i>	SU	Blue
Muskrat	<i>Ondatra zibethicus</i>	Green	Green
Brown Lemming	<i>Lemmus sibiricus</i>	SU	Blue
Northern Bog Lemming	<i>Synaptomys borealis</i>	Green	Green
Black Rat	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	Green	Not Listed
Norway Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Green	Not Listed
House Mouse	<i>Mus musculus</i>	Green	Green
Meadow Jumping Mouse	<i>Zapus hudsonius</i>	Green	Green
Western Jumping Mouse	<i>Zapus princeps</i>	Green	Green
Porcupine	<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	Green	Green
Coyote	<i>Canis latrans</i>	Green	Green
Wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	Green	Yellow
Arctic Fox	<i>Alopex lagopus</i>	Green	Green
Red Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	Green	Green
Swift Fox	<i>Vulpes velox</i>	Red	Red
Gray Fox	<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	Green	Not Listed
Black Bear	<i>Ursus americanus</i>	Green	Green
Grizzly Bear	<i>Ursus arctos</i>	Blue	Blue
Raccoon	<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Green	Green
American Pine Marten	<i>Martes americana</i>	Green	Green
Fisher	<i>Martes pennanti</i>	Yellow B	Yellow
Long-tailed Weasel	<i>Mustela frenata</i>	Yellow A	Yellow
Ermine	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	Green	Green
Least Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	Green	SU
Black-footed Ferret	<i>Mustela nigripes</i>	Extirpated	Extirpated
Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>	Green	Green
Wolverine	<i>Gulo gulo</i>	Blue	Blue
Badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	Yellow A	Yellow
Striped Skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	Green	Green
River Otter	<i>Lutra canadensis</i>	Green	Blue
Cougar	<i>Felis concolor</i>	Yellow B	Blue
Canada Lynx	<i>Lynx canadensis</i>	Yellow B	Blue
Bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>	Yellow B	Blue

## Appendix 1 Taxonomic List of Alberta Vertebrates

### Mammals (continued)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Current Status	Status in 1991
Elk (Wapiti) .....	<i>Cervus elaphus</i> .....	Green .....	Yellow
Moose .....	<i>Alces alces</i> .....	Green .....	Yellow
Mule Deer .....	<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i> .....	Green .....	Green
White-tailed Deer .....	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i> .....	Green .....	Green
Woodland Caribou .....	<i>Rangifer tarandus</i> .....	Blue .....	Red
Wood Bison .....	<i>Bison bison athabascae</i> .....	Red .....	Red
Mountain Goat .....	<i>Oreamnos americanus</i> .....	Green .....	Blue
Bighorn Sheep .....	<i>Ovis canadensis</i> .....	Green .....	Yellow
Pronghorn .....	<i>Antilocapra americana</i> .....	Yellow B .....	Yellow

## Appendix 2 Species Evaluation Form

**Note:** This form has been included to encourage input in refining the status of individual wildlife species. Using this form, the numeric and descriptive criteria presented in **Table 1**, and the map in **Appendix 3**, a numeric rating of any species may be submitted. Please be as thorough as possible in explaining the data, information, or personal knowledge used to classify a species.

Comments and suggestions relating to the evaluation process are also welcomed. Please mail information/ comments to:

Head, Status and Surveys Branch, Wildlife Management Division  
Natural Resources Service  
Alberta Environmental Protection  
4th Floor, 9920 - 108 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2G6

**Species Evaluated:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Common Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Scientific Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Criteria (see Table 1)</b>	<b>Rank Score</b>	<b>Comments/Explanation/Data Sources</b>
-------------------------------	-------------------	--

**Abundance** \_\_\_\_\_

**Breeding** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Distribution** \_\_\_\_\_

**Habitat** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Integrity** \_\_\_\_\_

**Population** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Trend** \_\_\_\_\_

**National/**  
**International**  
**Status** \_\_\_\_\_

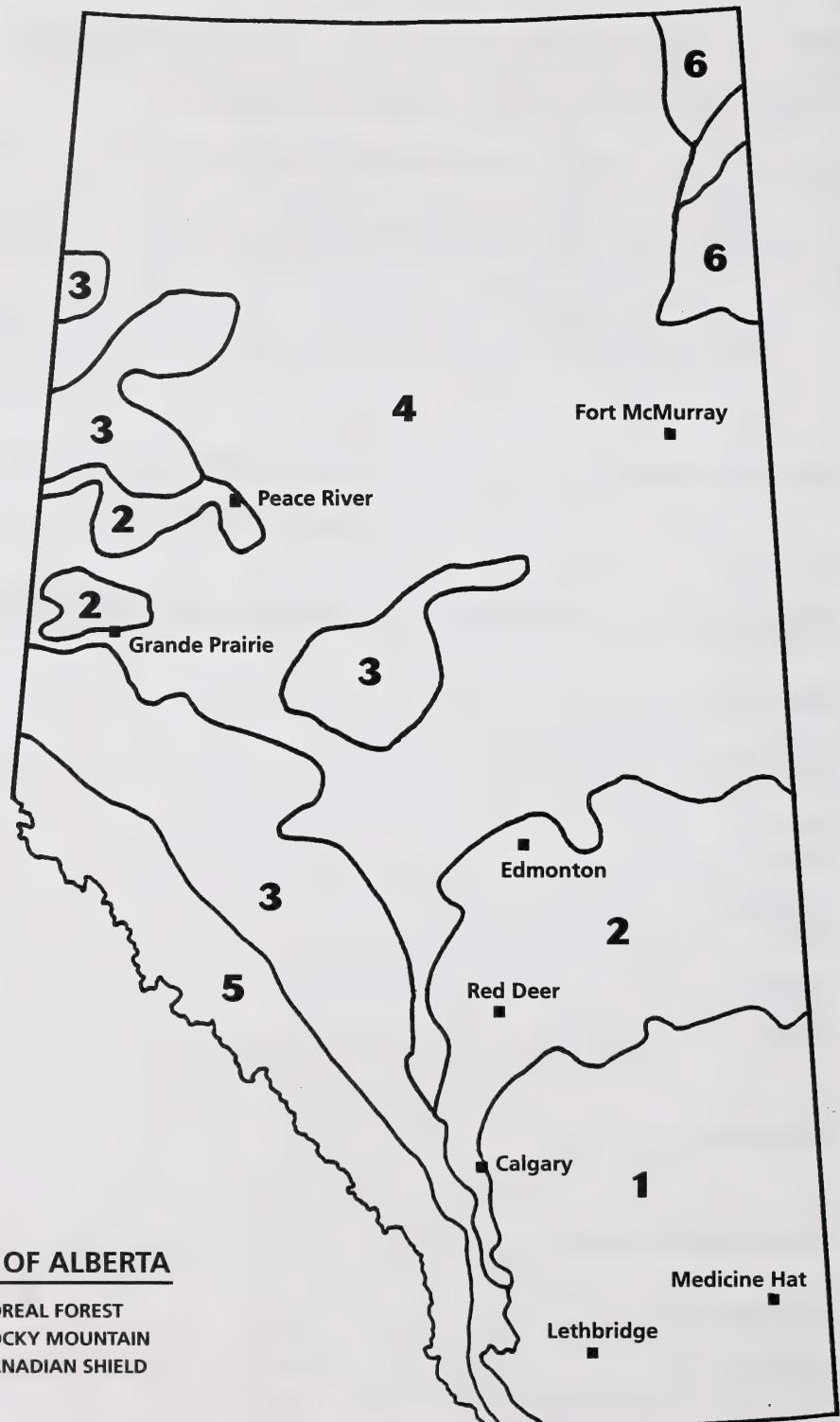
**Total Score:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Status Recommended:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Evaluated by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Appendix 3 Natural Regions of Alberta



#### NATURAL REGIONS OF ALBERTA

1 GRASSLAND  
2 PARKLAND  
3 FOOTHILLS

4 BOREAL FOREST  
5 ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
6 CANADIAN SHIELD

## NOTES

## NOTES



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